



“THE AFTERMATH” SADAD ATTACKED BY TERRORISTS

Sadad is a Syriac Orthodox town with a population of 15,000. It is located in the desert region 160 km North of Damascus. There are 14 churches and monasteries, four priests and five halls for banquets and social activities. Most of Sadad's residents are educated, loving and peaceful.

Following the Syrian crises, 600 families (23,000 persons) migrated to Sadad and became IDPs from the surrounding Syrian provinces and villages. For most of the conflict Sadad has remained a safe area, but on the 21st of October 2013, terrorists invaded Sadad. After occupying the town for one week, the terrorists were forced out by the Syrian Army.

Because of the occupation of the northern part of Sadad by the terrorists, two thousand five hundred (2,500) families left Sadad and were dispersed between Damascus, Homs and the rural villages of the area especially Fairouzeh, Zatl, Maskana and Fhileh. One thousand five hundred (1,500) families including children, elders and young men and women were detained for a week as hostages by the armed groups. Some of them escaped and had to walk a distance of 8 km from Sadad to Hafar in order to find a refuge from the attack.

Forty five (45) civilians including women, elders and babies were killed by bullets or strangulation and several houses were destroyed. Seven (7) people are still missing and fifty (50) are wounded.







Most of the houses and shops of Sadad were looted.





The Churches were vandalized with graffiti depicting Christianity and money and ancient books stolen from their properties.





On the Alter: written in Arabic: "God, Mohammed" and "let the aggressive regime fall".





Most of the government buildings were destroyed including the schools, municipality building, telecommunication center, hospital, dispensary and the financial and agricultural offices.

Both Hafar and Sadad currently do not have electricity or water.



The crisis in Sadad also made 500 families of Hafar leave. The people of Sadad escaped with nothing but the clothes they had on. Some of them took some of their valuables and official documents with them, but they were also stolen. People lost their homes and all of their belongings.

The children of Sadad and Hafar lost their future because of the destruction of schools, kindergartens and centers of activities. They were traumatized and scared of this terrible attack.

This is a brief picture that reflects the current sad reality in Sadad. On the 28th of October, some people of Sadad returned to their village and discovered the real loss caused by the terrorists. There are houses that cannot be fixed because they are completely destroyed. They have no electricity, no water and no phones. The State is fixing the damages, especially in government buildings. Schools cannot be opened anytime soon. The lack of water, electricity, security and the fear of another attack made the displaced families decide to stay in the place they went to, to secure the future of their children and to ensure security.



Of all the events that have passed in Syria, this one is considered as one of the biggest massacres against Christians. On November 3rd, date of writing this report, the family of Mtanios El Cheikh was found dead. His mother, wife, son, daughter and two children were killed and thrown in a well! The young man had his hands tied behind his back. This family was very close to everyone and to the Church. This was a sad day for Sadad and all of us! Sadad and Hafar have been living in peace for decades with their Muslim neighbors. The attack by SFA and Daiish who are formed mostly by foreign fighters, disrupted the peaceful living together of Christians and Muslims.

The people of Sadad and Hafar are scared and they have a big fear that the terrorists will return and do another massacre. Yet people are returning gradually. We are encouraging them to do so, and with what is being offered by the State and the SARC, we are helping as well. On Saturday, our field workers took 700 bread parcels, 500 food parcels and they were distributed to people in need in Sadad with the help of the RC in Humaira.





Beside the spiritual, moral and psychological support, there is a big need for financial support. The "Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue" (FDCD) and "Initiatives for sustainable development" are trying to help as much as possible. Barnabas Fund, Danmission, the Mennonites and the United Church of Christ (UCC) have already supported and helped in the evacuation and in bringing back some of Sadad's residents. They also assisted with food parcels, bread and hygiene items. But now, people have to come back and there is a big need for food, hygiene items, cash for medicines and basic things for living. FDCD and Initiatives are cooperating with the Churches in the area and the committees in charge to ease the suffering of the people and help them return to their normal lives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT, YOUR ACTION IS MOST NEEDED.

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